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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,654	01/10/2005	Sonnie Hermansson	62644-P1691	5190

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MANELLI DENISON & SELTER
2000 M STREET NW SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3307

EXAMINER

COLETTA, LORI L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3612

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/520,654

Applicant(s)

HERMANSSON, SONNIE

Examiner

Lori L. Coletta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 20, 25 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01102005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 17-26 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 17, “the said sensor” (lines 13 and 14) needs to be changed to

--said sensor--.

Regarding claim 23, “the said fourth gearwheel” (lines 13 and 14) needs to be changed to

--said fourth gearwheel--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 17, 18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Faubert et al. 6,256,930.

Regarding claim 17, Faubert et al. ‘930 discloses an apparatus for opening and closing a door which is arranged on a vehicle so that it can slide in a door opening in the vehicle, the apparatus comprising an engaging element connected to the door, drive wheel designed to act upon the engaging element, a transmission operatively connected to the drive wheel, the transmission being designed to transmit power to the drive wheel via at least a first gear and a second gear so that the drive wheel can be driven in a first gear and a second gear so that the drive wheel can be driven in a first gear and a second gear, the first gear being a higher gear and

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the second gear being a lower gear, a position sensor connected to the sliding door and designed to detect when the sliding door has reached a predetermined position in the door opening, said sensor being operatively connected to the transmission, so that the transmission changes gear from the first gear to the second gear when the door, in moving towards a closed position, reaches the predetermined position.

Regarding claim 18, Faubert et al. '930 discloses the apparatus, wherein the transmission furthermore has a neutral so that the drive wheel can rotate freely.

Regarding claim 21, Faubert et al. '930 discloses the apparatus, wherein the position sensor is operatively connected to the transmission in that when the door, in moving towards the closed position, the position sensor is designed to act upon a control device for the transmission.

Regarding claim 22, Faubert et al. '930 discloses the apparatus, wherein the control device is designed to change from the first gear to the second gear when the position sensor closes or breaks an electrical circuit.

Regarding claim 23, Faubert et al. '930 discloses the apparatus, wherein the transmission is a gearbox which comprises an input drive shaft, on the input drive shaft, a first gearwheel, on the input drive shaft, a second gearwheel, which is smaller than the first gearwheel so that the first gearwheel constitutes a larger gearwheel and the second gearwheel constitutes a smaller gearwheel, an output drive shaft, on the output drive shaft, a third gearwheel meshing with the first gearwheel to produce the first gear, on the output shaft, a fourth gearwheel, meshing with the second gearwheel to produce the second gear, said fourth gearwheel being larger than the third gearwheel, so that the third gearwheel constitutes a smaller gearwheel and the fourth gearwheel constitutes a larger gearwheel.

Regarding claim 24, Faubert et al. '930 discloses the apparatus, wherein the control device is designed to control the transmission of torque from the input device shaft to the output device shaft via the first gearwheel and the third gearwheel or via the second gearwheel and the fourth gearwheel.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 27-31 are allowed.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The recitations of the specific features of the vehicle in claim 27 including especially the construction of the cable which is connected to the door and is designed to run around pulleys arranged on the vehicle is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

The recitations of the specific features of the method of fitting an apparatus for opening and closing a door in claim 30 including especially the construction of the providing a cable together with pulleys intended for the cable, fitting the cable and pulleys to the vehicle so that the cable is arranged on the vehicle to run around the pulleys is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

6. Claims 19, 20, 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited references show several other apparatuses for opening and closing a door similar to that of the current invention.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Coletta whose telephone number is 571-272-6658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Lori L. Coletta
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612

July 12, 2006